

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of April 12, 2010

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:10 P.M.

Present: Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Chair Sherman Taylor, Vice Chair Heidi Catalano, Board Members Janine Borgersen, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Vice Chair Heidi Catalano, Members John Bonkowski, Chris Codner, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 8, 2010: Member Borgersen made a Motion to accept the Minutes as presented, Member Hluchan seconded the Motion; the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Westvale Park: Councilmember Quinn reported that 13 bids were received for the Renovation Project; which are currently being reviewed by the Borough Attorney and Borough Administrator. The Renovation Project will be discussed at the Mayor and Council meeting of April 13 including Grant status, renovation bids, project additions and deletions.

Veterans Park: Councilmembers Quinn and Grefrath, Administrator Hoffmann, Recreation Director Buchheister and Ed Sneickus of Burgis Associates met to review the four-year plan for the renovation of the Park. Bids on Phase One of the irrigation / sprinkler systems will be voted on at the Mayor and Council meeting of April 13. Phase One will address the bandstand area including pavers, landscaping, benches and garbage cans. Subsequent phases will address pathway configuration, additional landscaping and memorial benches, etc.

Easter Egg Hunt: Ms. Quinn congratulated the Department on the successful and well attended Egg Hunt and thanked the Board for their assistance at the event.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Basketball Re-cap Meeting: Director Buchheister met with several League Coordinators to review the 2009-10 season. The site changes for the various age leagues worked very well. The 2010-11 season may include a First grade league, rather than starting the program with Second Graders. Mr. Buchheister stated that he wants to reinstitute the policy of travel league players being required to play in the recreational leagues, a policy that existed in Westwood until recently. Mr. Buchheister stated that properly balanced teams will provide continuity and inclusion which will benefit both programs, this is also recommended by the High School's Basketball Coach. The Board discussed at length the assets and detriments to both sides of this policy.

Discussion of the regional school system's junior high sport teams suspension as a result of the school's budgetary cuts was discussed. Mr. Buchheister stated that when the school system and the parents determine their course of action, the Recreation Dept will cooperate in any way possible.

b. Winter Program Update: Director Buchheister reported final participation numbers for the Winter Program Season. The Board was pleased with the Seasonal Report generated by the new, Community Pass software program. Specific discussion followed on the various Programs as well as the computer registration program.

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5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- c. Special Needs Dance Program: Staff from Broadway Bound Dance Company, as well as Westwood and Twp. of Washington Volunteers conduct two sessions of the Program every Wednesday, for younger and older children averaging 7-10 children per session. Community Life Newspaper will attend to produce a story and pictures for the Paper.
Two adult volunteers with Special Education backgrounds are working with Mr. Buchheister to develop a program for September which will include arts and crafts, yoga, basketball, etc. Grants will be sought to assist with future programming.
- d. Egg Hunt Re-Cap: The Egg Hunt had the largest attendance to date, estimated at more than 500 persons. Discussion followed on people bringing children younger and older than the specified Pre-School to Grade 3 age. Next year will be age 3 through 3rd Grade. An area for those younger than 3 years will be created.
Barricades will be reinstituted for the Easter Bunny Photo Op area.
- e. Spring Programs (registration begins 3/29/10): Director Buchheister presented preliminary participant numbers for the Spring Programs. Discussion followed on the various programs including the new Valley Boot Camp Program in Voorhis Park.
- f. Community Center Usage: Director Buchheister reported on the amount of time the gym is idle outside of the Fall-Winter Program Season. Several A.A.U. basketball teams will rent the gym facility six days a week, when the gym would not be in use. Many of the players are Westwood and Westwood area residents.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Westvale Park Renovation: Previously addressed under Item 4.
- b. New Irrigation System for Veterans Park, Train Station and Library:

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. On-line Registration: The Program will launch Monday, May 3. A link on the Borough website's Home Page will go to the registration program. The Department has been building the database for nine months. New families can establish an account and register within a few minutes. The only exception is the Playground Program Trips which will be an in-person registration for this year.
- b. Non-Resident Registrations Fees: The fee has been raised from \$20.00 per activity to \$25.00 per activity. These funds will pay the annual cost of the on-line registration program.
- c. Summer Concert Series and Movies in the Park: T.D. Bank will continue to sponsor the Series. Joan Gardner, a former Westwood resident will be performing in the Series with the Henry Boot Band for the first time.
Member Griffin secured the sponsors for the Movies in the Park Program. The Huntington Learning Center has also expressed an interest in co-sponsoring the Movies Program.
Paragon Bank has offered sponsorship to Department events, which Mr. Buchheister will pursue.

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- d. Regional School System Enrichment Program: The Program hosted at the Berkeley School in July will not conflict with the Summer Playground Program. Children attending the Enrichment Program from 9:30-12:20 may join the Playground Program at 12:30 at a reduced rate. Discussion followed on the Summer Playground Program.
8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:50 by Vice Chair Catalano, seconded by Member Hluchan. The next meeting will be Monday, May 10, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.